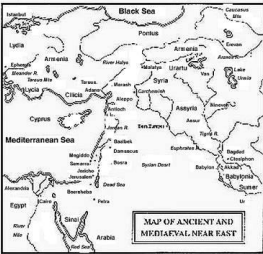






THE RELIGIOUS ROOTS OF THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST



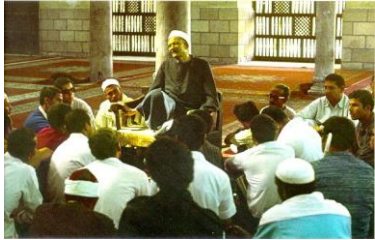
SYLLABUS

(See "Assignments" for Grading scheme)

TEXTBOOK: Christopher Catherwood, [A Brief History of the Middle East From Abraham to Arafat](#) (Running Press, 2006)

Date	Topic	Description	Reading
THE RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST			
January 12-16	The Geopolitics of the Middle East 	How the geography of the Middle East has shaped its politics since ancient and biblical times.	Catherwood, Chaps. 1-2
January 21-23 (no class Monday)	The Roman Middle East: Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity 	An examination of formative Rabbinic Judaism and the Early Church and their relationships to Jerusalem and the Holy Land	Catherwood, Chapter 3
Jan 26 –30 Draft due -- Jan 28	The Emergence and Spread of Islam 	The How Islam emerged and grew in the Arabian Peninsula and made room for itself alongside the other monotheistic faiths of Judaism and Christianity.	Catherwood, Chapter 4, 5
THE RELIGIONS ENCOUNTER EACH OTHER			
February 2-6	Medieval Theology: Confronting the Other	The A look at some of the classic religious thinkers of	

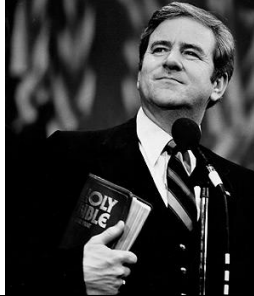
		the Catholic Church, Judaism and Islam - - and how they understood each other.	
February 9-13 Paper due -- Feb 11	The Crusades 	The Crusades (especially the first four) radically changed the theological relationship among Christianity, Judaism and Islam to a military confrontation. A look at the Crusades, their origin and conduct.	Catherwood, Chapter 6
February 16-20	The End of Arab Supremacy and the Turkish Empire	The fall of the great Arab Muslim empires -- the Umayyads (centered in Damascus) and the Abbasids (centered in Baghdad) and the end of the Caliphate. The rise to power of the non-Muslim Turks and the religious implications of that development.	Catherwood, Chapter 7
THE EUROPEAN REFORMATION OF CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM			
February 23-27	The Protestant Reformation	The ending of Catholic hegemony in the West and the return to the Bible. The religious implications of this in the West.	

			
<p>March 2-6</p> <p>Paper due -- Mar 6</p>	<p>Jewish Emancipation and Reform in Europe</p> 	<p>The political, social and economic end to medieval restrictions on the European Jewish community and the struggle to define a modern Judaism.</p>	
<p>March 9-13</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>		
REACTIONS TO MODERN SECULARISM			
<p>March 18-20</p> <p>NO CLASS MARCH 16</p>	<p>Restorationist Islam</p> 	<p>Islamic reactions to Western encroachment in the Islamic heartland -- the rise of Wahhabism and other Salafi movements</p>	
<p>March 23-27</p>	<p>Jewish Nationalism</p>	<p>The shaping of Jewish nationalism and the various Zionist movements (secular and religious) that followed.</p>	



Mar. 30-Apr. 3

Christian Fundamentalism



As a reaction to secular science, early twentieth century Protestants struggled to save Christianity by returning to the fundamentals of biblical faith, including the restoration of Zion.

EUROPEAN COLONIALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

April 6-10

World War I; British and French Colonialism



"The peace to end all peace" -- how the British and the French fashioned the modern Middle East and set the stage for religious and political competitions.

Catherwood, Chapter 8

April 13-17

The Creation of Israel and its Aftermath

Paper due -- April 13



The establishment of the State of Israel, the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem, and the challenge these pose to political Islamism.

Catherwood, Chapter 9


THE CHALLENGE OF RADICAL SUNNI AND SHIITE ISLAMISMS

April 20-24

Religious Conflict in Lebanon, Iraq and Iran

The rise of radical religious movements -- the Sunni Islamic Brotherhood,

Catherwood, Chapter 10

		<p>revolutionary Shiism, Jewish religious nationalism, and the struggle for religious identity on the Middle East today.</p>	
<p>April 27</p>	<p>Speculations about religion, peace and war today.</p>  <p><small>www.sipahnews.com</small></p>	<p>What does the past we have been talking about tell us about how the future might play out?</p>	
<p>May 1 @ noon</p>	<p>Final Paper Due</p>		